April 2004

On-line at www.norcalhandball.org

The NCHA Scoop
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE WOULD BE CHAMPION!

The Top 10 NorCal Handball Events of 2003

By Jim Tamagni

1. Norm Dunne wins USHA open doubles national championship. This is only overshadowed by Rich Dunne's numerous YMCA open doubles national championships.
2. Rick Christian is inducted into NCHA Hall of Fame. It was about time because if they waited much longer the Hall of Fame wouldn't have been able to hold him!
3. Rich Dunne becomes grandmaster in the fastest time frame ever. You can't argue with this one. It is pretty difficult to win 10 national titles and only play 5 rounds.
4. Emmett Peixoto and Ricardo Diaz win National Collegiate OD title. The only question here is if Emmett ever attended any college.
5. Emmett Peixoto cracks pro handball tour. It seems like yesterday when Emmett couldn't beat Dennis Osmer, John Oppenheimer and Jeff Salinas.
6. Alan Sherrill finally loses in Toledo National 3-wall 50 dbls final. It just goes to show that if Dick David isn't his opponent in the finals, like he has been for the last 6 years, Alan will lose.

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An Olympic Club Treasure

By Jay & Geoff Capell

When the wrecking ball meets the fourth and fifth floors, a piece of athletic history will be lost forever. And not just San Francisco history, but a national awareness of what took place here in the last 80 plus years.

The Olympic Club handball courts are as well known in our sport as Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park in baseball. Legendary names such as Banuet, Murray, Clements, Capell, Keays, Marble, Brady, McGuire, De La Pena, Kelly, McDonald and Dunne have created a history that will survive the demolition; but like losing the Polo Grounds, it will never quite be the same.

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Olympic Club Treasure

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These unique five courts of tongue and groove Douglas fir have been the "battle ground" of our Club's handball tradition. Originally built with 23x46 dimensions, they were remodeled to the standard 20x40 measurements for the 1960 Nationals. They also sported the first glass back wall, a feature that was so revolutionary in the 1950s that it was featured on Shell Wonderful World of Sports TV program. These courts are considered the best in the world. The solid concrete front walls, true wooden side walls, and varnished hardwood floors allow for solid bounces and sharp hooks. Because of this Cadillac construction, players never complain about bad bounces, just about true kills and passes from their skilled opponents. The gallery of wooden benches is where avid rooters and handball socialites gathered for National tournaments and 4th class grudge matches. Frequently packed, these seats provided a bird's-eye view of Club singles and doubles tournaments, which were citywide events. It was a sight to see in the 40s and 50s, with men in their suits and ties, and women formally dressed. Change occurred in the 60s and beyond, with casually dressed spectators who still exhibited the same passion for the game.

Court number 2 is the crown jewel! The center court with the largest viewing, where National Championships, Club Titles and Saturday grudge matches have been decided. National Hall of Fame legends such as Jacobs, Sloan, Hershkowitz, Haber, Lewis, Alvarado and others, have battled there and cemented their names in handball history. And it was there that the best that The Olympic Club produced, National Hall of Fame member Bob Brady, exhibited his talent and tenacity.

Players come and go, but like Wimbledon, center court remains constant. Great victories, heartbreaking losses, and tragic deaths have occurred on that court; and when it ends, these courts will be replaced by new courts, charged with the duty of forging new memories, new charm and a new history, one that perhaps can never compare to what has been.

If you have the time, even if you have never played the game, take a minute to see this great landmark. Time is short. Fortunately, memories last forever.

Olympic Club Handball History

Performances of national and regional note-worthiness are liberally sprinkled through the annals of Olympic Club handball.

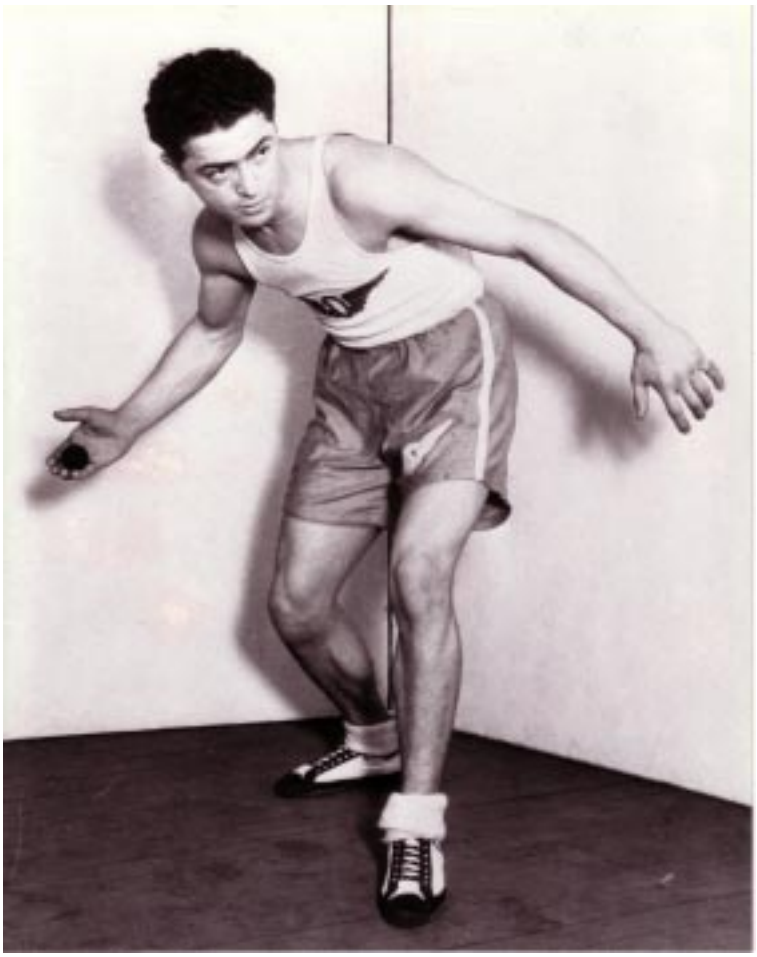
continued next column

One of the early champions was Joe Murray who won the National AAU title in 1923. There followed such nationally recognized stars as Al Banuet, Jack Donovan, Lane McMillan, Bob Brady and Commissioner John Januet. The latter, one of the most ardent handball enthusiasts the Club has known, died in 1936 at the age of 58 after many years' service to his favorite sport. Al Banuet was the winner of three straight US singles titles.

Murray won his national title by defeating favored Maynard Laswell of Los Angeles in the finals the same year in which three other Olympians were accorded national ranking. Jack Donovan was ranked fifth, Jack McDonald sixth and Lane McMillan eighth.

Murray lost out in his bid to retain the title in 1924, but Donovan and McMillan teamed to win the doubles. They also won in 1925 and again in 1926 at St. Paul. McMillan later paired with Banuet, and the team swept to the title in 1929, with Banuet also winning the singles.

Banuet's victories were the beginning of an impressive string of performances. He won the singles title in 1930 and 1931 and teamed with Woodman Paynter to win the doubles in 1930.



Al Banuet (courtesy Olympic Club)

In 1936 the Olympic Club's Dan Marble reached the finals, only to lose to Joe Platak of Chicago.

But Clubmen dominated the Pacific Coast Invitational that year. Roy Leu defeated Jack Clements in an all-Olympic final. Clements won the title in 1937, and was also national junior champion.

The Club was host to the 1939 National AAU tournament where Platak won his fifth straight title. He defeated Clements in the finals. Clements, however, won the coveted title in 1942 with the Olympic Club again the scene of action.

Bob Brady began a spectacular string of triumphs by winning the 1951 title and teaming with Bill Keays for the doubles championship. Brady won again in 1953 at Houston and was runner-up in 1954.

South End Handball Patriarch John Condon congratulates Bob Brady (courtesy Olympic Club)

The Olympic Club was host to another national tournament in 1957, and Brady won back his crown by downing defending champion Jimmy Jacobs of the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Olympians performed well in the 1959 AAU tournament. Brady battled his way to the finals where he lost to John Sloan of the US Army, while the doubles team of Bob McGuire and Dick Langdon reached the semi-finals. McGuire won the sportsmanship trophy.

Both Brady and Banuet compiled impressive records as Olympians. Banuet won the national singles title three times and was runner-up once. His doubles record included two championships and one-second-place finish. Brady also laid claim to three singles titles and finished second on two other occasions in addition to one doubles championship.

The current Olympic Club Handball Program has over 150 active players. It's a program with multiple goals. First, there is a recreational or "Club" aspect designed to foster fitness, competition and encourages play at the Club. Toward this end there are approximately twelve in-house tournaments held each year. These include such events as Club Singles and Doubles Championships as well as various age divisions and handicap tournaments. It also includes free lessons for players. The second focus of the program is to participate in local and regional tournaments in the Bay Area. This is available to all of our players at all levels of ability and age groups including J/J players. Participation/practice in these events encourages play as well as fostering improvement. Third, in an effort to promote inter-club play, we participate every year in a home-and-home competition with the Multnomah Athletic Club from Portland, and in the NYAC's Invitational Tournament. Fourth, the program promotes play for J/J members through lessons, clinics and support to participate in local tournaments as well as national events.

A prominent feature of the Handball Program continues to be our ability to compete on the National scene. Over the years we have been highly successful in winning many National titles. These include titles in Open events as well as Masters (40 +), Golden Masters (50+), and even older age divisions. Our most recent National title came in the Junior Nationals in December 1995 (19 and under division). Since 1920, which marks the beginning of Handball in its current format, we have won more National Titles than any other Club/Organization.

Finally, The Olympic Club strives to contribute to the success of the sport by organizing/hosting the Northern California Handball Hall of Fame Tournament each year. This tournament features outstanding play by some of the best local and national players as well as our own Olympic Club members.

For more information please contact Bernie Samet at 415-345-5111 x1504.

Fred Bancalari Superbowl Tournament

By Vern Rutherford

On January 30 – February 1, 170 handball players participated in the 2004 Fred Bancalari Superbowl Tournament in Pleasanton California. This year's tournament was dedicated to Fred Bancalari, former World and National Champion who passed away in 2003.

The tournament was one of the largest in the 18-year history of the event.

The results were as follows:

Open Singles – Emmett Peixoto d. Ricardo Diaz 14, 9

A Singles – Danny Solorio d. Luis Diaz 13, 5

B Singles – Miguel Delgado d. Patrick Aguiar 7, 6

C Singles – Hong Qu d. Stephen Helding 20, 13

D Singles – Shawn Cordeiro d. Mark Mazziotti 20, 20

Women's Singles – Tina Apolonario d. Crystal Diaz 17, 8

Junior's Singles – Derek Alcantar d. Armando Diaz

Masters Singles – Scott Morey d. Mike Linnik 7, 14

Golden Masters Singles – Isaac Burns d. Bob Carel 19, 17

Super Golden Masters Singles – Dennis Moser d. Jim Story 11, 13

Open Doubles – Emmett Peixoto /Gary Pezzi d. Leo Marciel/ Vince Martinez 12, 7

A Doubles – John Nikula/Marc Horrell d. Raul Jasso/Martin Garcia (19), 19, 7

B Doubles – Charles & Chuck Vazac d. Patrick & Lawrence Aguiar 9, 18

C Doubles – Bowdoin Pfeifer/Michael Simenstad d. Michael Rodriguez/Lou Villareal 12, (13), 10

Masters Doubles – Rick Christian/Larry Morefield d. Ray Graham/Gary Sternberg 11, 11

Golden Masters Doubles – Pat Bowen/Tom Fitzwater d. Terry Britt/Lance Meyer 17, 13

Super Golden Masters Doubles – Travis Poindexter/Felipe Rosendo d. Ed Barbarini/Ed Dullea 12, 15

2003 Superbowl Tournament Results

Following are the results from last year's Super Bowl tournament.:

Open Singles – Ricardo Diaz d. Ed August 14, 10

A Singles – Rick McCormick d. Travis Hoover

B Singles – Ross Clippinger d. Alex Mints 12, 3

C Singles – Carlos Tavarez d. Alex Ng (10), 19, 2

D Singles – Nate Frost d. Brian Delucci 8, 14

Junior's Singles – Ramiro Leon d. Derek Alcantar 10, 8

Masters Singles – Tom McGrath d. Dave Christie & Ron Strausbaugh in a round robin

Golden Masters Singles – Lance Meyer d. Bob Carel

Super Golden Masters Singles – Jim Story d. Jim Keeney & Gene Berardini in a round robin

Open Doubles – Leo Maciel/Vince Martinez d. Rick McCormick/ Ron Strausbaugh, Ricardo Diaz/Jesse Harris & Jaime Fabian/ Harry Scott in a round robin

A Doubles – Luis Diaz/Ed Betancourt d. James Dominguez/ Noel Keen (forfeit)

B Doubles – Eric Foster/Jerry Wertzer d. Steve Chen/Liam Reidy

C Doubles – Paul Dunlap/Nick Smith d. Bob Kass/Sam Kass 11, 19

Masters Doubles – Ray Graham/Larry Morefield d. Rick Christian/Frank Vasquez 16, 19

Golden Masters Doubles – Terry Britt/Lance Meyer d. Guy Hoover/Rich Polson

Super Golden Masters Doubles – Travis Poindexter/Dennis Moser d. John Elstead/Max Gaither & Mike Kasarda/Steve Graham in a round robin.

Strong Showing by Norcal Juniors at Junior Nationals

By Bob Kass

Twenty-one Norcal Juniors competed in the 2003 Junior Nationals held at the SOS Club in Modesto during the last week of December, 2003. Even with the home court advantage, however, only one Norcal player—Tom Linnik of San Jose—came away with top honors. Nevertheless, the players all had a great time, thanks in large part to the great hospitality and smooth tournament courtesy of Tom and Cass Sove.

In the Boys **19 and under singles**, three area handballers competed: Nico Patron of Stockton, and brothers Luis and Ricardo Diaz of San Jose. Luis Diaz had a fine performance, winning his first two matches against solid competitors. He was defeated by Sean Lenning in the Quarterfinals. Ricardo had a first round bye (courtesy of his number four seed), and then won two matches to reach the semifinals where he also lost to Sean Lenning. Ricardo played a very strong first game, losing by the score of 21-16 before succumbing to the crafty Lenning.

As has been the tradition, there is one combined division for **19 and 17 and under doubles** boys. Three Norcal teams competed in this combined division. Ricardo Diaz teamed up with Ray Cota of Southern California while brother Luis partnered with Colin Clement of Seattle. Both of these doubles teams won their first matches, but fell in the semifinals. Also competing in this division were brothers Zach and Steve Buchanan of Benicia. They won their out-bracket first match before falling in the quarterfinals.

Steve Buchanan also competed in the **17 and under singles,** where he won his first match before losing to Ireland's Robbie McCarthy, the eventual 17 and under champion.

Four Northern California youths competed in the very tough **15 and under singles** division. Ramiro "Junior" Leon of San Jose won his first match before losing to an ever-present Irish lad in the second round (Junior came in second in the consolation bracket). Sam Kass of San Jose had a first round bye, won his second round match over Vern Roberts' son Adam, and then lost in the quarterfinals to Suhn Lee of Des Plaines Illinois. Clinton Spinelli of Merced and Rogelio Luna of Hayward also competed, but neither player made it past the first round.

Northern California shined in the **13 and under singles**, where Tom Linnik of San Jose claimed his first of two 2003 Junior National championships. Five of the entries in this division were from Northern California: Linnik, Derek Alcantar of Hayward, J.J. Sotomayor of Watsonville, Bob Schooler of Campbell, and Armando Diaz of San Jose. Bob Schooler, who was awarded the Newcomer Award for his performance at this tournament, won three matches to reach the finals where he was defeated by a much stronger Tom Linnik.

The **13 and under doubles** was also an all Northern California final (sort of), as Tom Linnik and his Midwestern partner Ryan Sutherland defeated J.J. Sotomayor and Derek Alcantar in two games to take first place. Bob Schooler also competed in doubles, partnering with a young Illinoisan.

The **11 and under singles** was a coed event this year, and Watsonville's Lindsay Sotomayor ended up just a few points shy of making it to the finals, losing a tough tie-breaker match to a young Irish lad. Also competing in this division were Santa Clara neighbors Loren Collado and Scottie Robinson (Scottie came in second in the consolation division).

In the coed **9 and under singles** division, Anthony Collado, Loren's younger brother, placed third by winning one of his three round robin matches.

Three girls also competed in the Modesto tournament, with Courtney Peixoto winning the **19 and under girls singles** and coming in second in the **women's doubles** with partner Tina Apolinario of Watsonville.

Crystal Diaz of San Jose participated in the **15 and under girls singles**, coming in second in the consolation bracket.

Thanks to all the Northern California volunteers who helped make the tournament a success, including Marjory and Jim Peixoto, Cherylann Mendonca, Bill Conlon, Lou Signer and Bob Kass. Also, special thanks to the volunteers from the host SOS, without whom the tournament could not have been staged: John Field, Everett Leon-Guerrero, Bill and Norma Heaston, Craig Chittim, and anyone else we forgot.

2003 California State Juniors and Collegiates

November 14-16, 2003

Palo Alto Elks Lodge, Palo Alto, California

With scattered showers, partly cloudy skies and cool weather outside, 50 junior and collegiate handball players kept the courts hot for two days of fun and competition at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, host of this year's California State Junior and Collegiate Handball Championships, sponsored by the Northern California Handball Association. The Collegiate component of the tournament was run in the multiple drop-down format used at the Collegiate Nationals while the Junior events had conventional single elimination with consolations, ensuring plenty of handball for all participants. There was a women/girls round robin that combined junior and collegiate players, and players were allowed to enter multiple events if desired.

Although competitors came primarily from the Bay Area, Brant and Bryer Bidegain came north from San Diego with their dad, Peter; Jesse Harris made the drive south from Willits with his mom; and Oscar Amaya flew up from Burbank to represent all the Los Angeles and Orange County kids that stayed home and missed out on all the handball action.

Special thanks to Bob Fleck and the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, Kevan Del Grande, Bill Conlon, Lou Signer, Cass and Tom Sove, Mike Linnik, Burns Macdonald and all the players and their families for making the event a real success.

Juniors Results

19 and Under

Semifinals: Ricardo Diaz, San Jose, d. Oscar Amaya, Pasadena, 4, 5; Luis Diaz, San Jose, d. Bryer Bidegain, Jamul, (9), 13, 8. Finals: R. Diaz d. L. Diaz, 4, 2.

17 and Under

Semifinals: Ramiro Leon, San Jose, d. Gustavo Diaz, San Jose, forfeit; Steve Buchanan, Benicia, d. Sam Kass, San Jose, 12, 17. Finals: Buchanan d. Leon, 11, 15.

15 and Under

Semifinals: Sam Kass, San Jose, d. Roger Luna, Hayward, 1, 1; Ramiro Leon, San Jose, d. Tom Linnik, San Jose, 17, 3. Finals: Kass d. Leon, 17, 3. Consolation: Bob Schooler, Campbell d. J.J. Sotomayor, Watsonville, (18), 1, 8.

13 and Under

Semifinals: Tom Linnik, San Jose, d. Brant Bidegain, Jamul, 1, 2; Roger Luna, Hayward, d. Bob Schooler, Campbell, 13, 15. Finals: Linnik d. Luna, 16, 12. Consolation: Derek Alcantar d. J. J. Sotomayor, (15), 18, 6.

11 and Under

Semifinals: Brant Bidegain, Jamul d. Lindsay Sotomayor, Watsonville, 19, 20; Stevie Contreras, San Jose d. Adam Rodriguez, San Jose, 16, 17. Finals: Bidegain d. Contreras, 10, 3. Consolation: Loren Collado, Santa Clara d. Anthony Collado, 1, 2.

Ricardo Diaz, Open champion, with 11 and under consolation winner Loren Collado, 2nd place finisher Stevie Contreras, and champion Brant Bidegain.

Collegiate Results

Open/A

Semifinals: Ricardo Diaz, Evergreen, d. Liam Reidy, UCB, 5, 5; Jessie Harris, Mendocino, d. Luis Diaz, Evergreen, 6, 3. Open Finals: Diaz d. Harris, 14, 10.

A Division

Reidy d. Diaz, 2, 13.

Mike Linnik congratulates Open Collegiate finalists Jesse Harris and Ricardo Diaz

B Division

Semifinals: Bryer Bidegain, San Diego, d. Lawrence Aguiar, Dominican, forfeit; Alex Mints, UCB d. Gustavo Diaz, Evergreen, forfeit. Finals: Mints d. Bidegain, (18), 16, 5.

C Division

Semifinals: Hong Qu, UCB d. Zach Buchanan, Chico State, (9), 5, 3; Oscar Amaya, Pasadena, d. Ryan McReynolds, UCB, 16, 17. Finals: Amaya d. Qu, 11, 16.

Oscar Amaya, Collegiate C champion with Hong Qu, Collegiate C runner up.

D Division

Semifinals: Nathan Siegel, UCB, d. Sam Horwich-Schoenfield, UCB, forfeit; Gustavo Gonzalez, UCB, d. Ryan McCarty, Cabrillo, 14, (15), 0. Finals: Gonzalez d. Siegel, 14, 19.

Novice Division

Semifinals: Miles Timpson, UCB d. Jessie Yu, UCB, 1, 9; Stephanie Castro, San Jose State, d. Leslie Forman, UCB, 18, 9. Finals: Timpson d. Castro, 9, 5.

Women/Girls Round Robin

First Place: Lindsay Sotomayor, Watsonville.

Second Place: Crystal Diaz, San Jose

Third Place: Jessie Yu, Berkeley

Top three finishers in the women/girls round robin (left to right): Crystal Diaz, Lindsay Sotomayor, and Stephanie Castro.

Wayne's Way

TOP TEN REASONS WHY (racquetballers can't go there)

10. Fear of their women dropping them immediately upon viewing their utter helplessness at returning even simplest of returnable shots.

9. Hair may get messed-up, and that's just the guys.

8. As youngsters they never graduated from checkers to chess, citing the mental stress as too unbearable.

7. Having something in their hands at all times makes them feel comfortable.

6 Facial makeup may run under even moderate sweating levels, and again that's just the guys.

5. Since there is no titanium or graphite involved in handball equipment, it is viewed as being too low-tech.

4. Combination of being able to strike racquetball and recreate decibel levels and speed of an Air Force fighter jet keep testosterone levels from dipping far below normal. Hitting handball with hand is medically not recommended.

3. Typical occupation of racquetballer does not mesh with handball lifestyle. Typical career examples would be: hair dressers; politicians(WW will refrain from saying which party that might be); ex-recalled-governors (picture that one); Enron, Tyco, or WorldCom execs; pro basketballers, pro baseballers, pro hockeyers, pro footballers, and coaches of said sports. Note that all have one thing in common: except hair dressers, a severe lack of an innate sense of fair play or being able to referee your own game.

2. Hands swell and hurt, duh, like we needed to put this here, which also conflicts with #7.

1. Fluorescent based color scheme outfits may tend to run under heavy perspiration.

Wayne's Way still wants to welcome the sick, the tired, the poor, the wretched, hey wait a minute, that sound like me, aaaaahhhhh!!! Keep doing it Wayne's Way.

NCHA Top Ten

continued from page 1

7. Alan Sherrill hits deer on his bike then hits parked car with his car after passing out at the wheel because of the deer he hit the day before. Don't make me explain it again, you figure it out.

8. Pat Bowen and Tom Fitzwater win 50 dbls in NorCal regionals with a narrow 11-7 tiebreaker win over Tom Sove. What this really means is that somehow they lost a game to Sove to force a tiebreaker?

9. Jim Peixoto creates PHA. PHA stands for Payoutalot Handball Association.

10. Modesto runs successful Junior National Championships where Tom Linnik slams in 13 and under singles and doubles. This is proof that handball paternity has nothing to do with your kids' success.

Boosters

Thanks go to all NCHA members for your support. Special thanks to to our Boosters for providing additional additional financial support during 2003.

Diamond

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Brad Komsthoeft

Joe McDonald

Tom McGee

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Stephen Wise

Geoff Capell

Bob Nedd

Dennis Roberts

Mike Dunne Sr

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Kelly Capell

Marty Itzkowitz

Randy Ragsdell

Ken Forman

David Balestrieri

Mike Linnik

Mike Woods

Al Wehrly

Platinum

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Boosters are thanked with the following .

- Silver-$25 (NCHA Headband)
- Gold-$50 (T-Shirt)
- Platinum - $75 (embroidered Collared Shirt)
- Diamond - $100 (embroidered Collared Shirt)

For more information, see www.norcalhandball.org/programs.taf

Tournament Calendar

For the latest tournament calendar, entry info, and results go to www.norcalhandball.org/events.taf

APRIL	3-6	Masters Doubles/Pro Stop $5, Houston	USHA
	11-13	NCHA Regionals	Tom Sove
	19	Bay Counties Opening Round	Brad Komsthoeft
	25-27	Pro Stop #6, Minneapolis	USHA
MAY	3-4	*Cinco de Mayo, South End*	Mike Alvarez
	10	Bay Counties Finals Big C	Brad Komsthoeft
	16-18	*Redding*	Larry DeBoer
	23-25	Modesto Memorial Day	Tom Sove
JUNE	2-8	4-wall Nationals, East Lansing	USHA
	13-15		
	20-22	*No Tournament*	
	27-29 tentative	*Campbell Inaugural 3-wall*	Bob Kass
JULY	4-6	*No Tournament*	
	11-13 tentative	*San Mateo Top Gun Doubles*	Tom Belluomini
	18-20	*No Tournament*	
	25-27 tentative	*Venice Beach Junior 3-wall*	
	26-3	Pan Pacific Masters	panpacmastersgames.com
AUGUST	1-3	*No Tournament*	
	8-10	Watsonville 3-Wall Doubles	Jim Peixoto
	15-17	*No Tournament*	
	22-24	*No Tournament*	
	29-1	Toledo 3-Wall Nationals	USHA
		San Jose YMCA	Sol Aber
SEPTEMBER	5-7	*No Tournament*	
	12-14 tentative	*Golden Gate Park Doubles*	Vince Breining
	19-21	*No Tournament*	
	26-28	California State Championships, Fresno	Frank Zuniga
OCTOBER	3-5	Watsonville Singles	Jim Peixoto
	10-12	Jack Tone	Tom Sove
	17-26	*World Championships, Dublin Ireland*	USHA
	31-2 tentative	*Kauai*	
NOVEMBER	7-9	Hall of Fame Doubles	Bernie Samet
	14-16	State Juniors @ San Jose YMCA	Jim Peixoto
	21-23	*Santa Rosa Turkey Shoot*	Ed Mount
	28-30	*No Tournament*	
DECEMBER	5-7	*No Tournament*	
	12-14	*No Tournament*	
	19-21	*No Tournament*	
	27-29 tentative	USHA Junior Nationals	USHA